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Security Council

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Letter dated 31 December 2007 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of the Congo to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

I have the honour to transmit herewith a report on the work of the Security Council during the presidency of the Congo in August 2007 (see annex). The document was prepared under my responsibility, after consultation with the other members of the Security Council. I should be grateful if you would have the present letter and its annex circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Luc-Joseph **Okio**
Chargé d'affaires a.i.

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Annex to the letter dated 31 December from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Republic of the Congo to the President of the Security Council

[Original: French]

Assessment of the work of the Security Council during the presidency of the Congo (August 2007)

Introduction

Under the presidency of the Republic of the Congo, the Security Council held 11 meetings and 10 consultations of the whole, during which four resolutions and three presidential statements were adopted. The President also made two press statements on behalf of the Council.

Africa

Democratic Republic of the Congo

On 10 August, the Council adopted resolution 1771 (2007) on the situation concerning the Democratic Republic of the Congo, in which it renewed until 15 February 2008 the measures on arms imposed by resolution 1493 (2003) and 1596 (2005) and recommended that the mandate of the Group of Experts responsible for monitoring implementation of the embargo should be renewed until the same date. The Council also decided to renew, until 15 February 2008, the measures on transport imposed by resolution 1596 (2005) and the financial and travel measures imposed by resolutions 1596 (2005), 1649 (2005) and 1698 (2006) concerning the movement of persons.

In the same resolution, the Council stated that, no later than 15 February 2008, it would review the situation with a view to adjusting the measures envisaged in the light of consolidation of the security situation in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, in particular progress in security sector reform, including the integration of the armed forces and the reform of the national police, and in disarming, demobilizing, resettling or repatriating and reintegrating Congolese and foreign armed groups.

Sierra Leone

On 27 August, during consultations of the whole, the Council was briefed by Mr. Dmitry Titov, Assistant Secretary-General for the Rule of Law and Security Institutions, Department of Peacekeeping Operations, on the first presidential and parliamentary elections organized by the Sierra Leone authorities following the withdrawal of the United Nations Mission in Sierra Leone (UNAMSIL) in December 2005. Members of the Security Council welcomed the announcement, on 25 August, of certified results for the parliamentary and presidential elections in Sierra Leone and congratulated the Sierra Leone authorities on the security measures taken. They commended the National Electoral Commission on the success of the elections, congratulated the people of Sierra Leone on the exemplary conduct of the 11 August elections and urged them to maintain the same constructive spirit, discipline and patience as the electoral process entered its final

and decisive phase, the second round of the presidential elections. The Council also welcomed the international support for the electoral process, including through the contribution of election observers.

Somalia

On 13 August, during consultations of the whole, Mr. François Lonseny Fall, Special Representative of the Secretary-General, submitted to the Council the most recent report of the Secretary-General on the situation in Somalia (S/2007/381).

On that occasion, members of the Council encouraged political dialogue, stressing that it should be inclusive and should be pursued outside the National Reconciliation Congress in order to include all walks of society. They also stressed the need to support the African Union Mission in Somalia (AMISOM) and to encourage Ethiopia to withdraw. They expressed concern at the continuing piracy along the Somali coast and its impact on the delivery of humanitarian assistance and at the low percentage of women members of the National Reconciliation Congress. The Council also recognized the need to take steps to remedy the humanitarian situation and called on all parties to respect international humanitarian law and human rights.

On 20 August, the Council adopted resolution 1772 (2007) concerning the situation in Somalia, in which it extended the mandate of AMISOM. It also requested the Secretary-General to continue to develop the existing contingency planning for the possible deployment of a United Nations peacekeeping operation replacing AMISOM and to consult with the African Union Commission on what further support might be provided to AMISOM.

Sudan/Darfur

On 9 August, during consultations of the whole, the Council was briefed by Mr. Jan Eliasson, Special Envoy of the Secretary-General for Darfur, and Mr. Salim Ahmed Salim, African Union Special Envoy to Darfur. Members of the Council agreed on a press statement in which they welcomed the substantial progress made at the meeting held in Arusha, Tanzania on 6 August 2007 at the suggestion of the two Special Envoys, building on the momentum generated by the meeting held in Tripoli on 13 July 2007 and the adoption of resolution 1769 (2007). In that statement, members of the Council reaffirmed the need to pursue the political and peacekeeping tracks simultaneously and called on all parties to the conflict to move from pre-negotiations to negotiations as soon as possible and to demonstrate their commitment to the political process through concrete actions, in particular a cessation of hostilities. The Council also called on the principal movements to join together and to participate in the process initiated by the African Union and the United Nations.

Chad/Central African Republic

On 21 August, Mr. Hédi Annabi, Assistant Secretary-General for Peacekeeping Operations, submitted to the Council the most recent report of the Secretary-General on Chad and the Central African Republic (S/2007/488). The Security Council announced that, on the basis of the Secretary-General's recommendations contained in that report, it was prepared to authorize deployment of a multidimensional presence aimed at contributing to the protection of refugees, internally displaced

persons and civilian populations at risk in the eastern part of Chad and the north-eastern part of the Central African Republic as well as facilitating the provision of humanitarian assistance.

The Council welcomed the readiness of the European Union to consider the establishment of an operation in support of the United Nations presence in eastern Chad and the north-eastern Central African Republic and encouraged the Secretary-General and the European Union to proceed with preparations, in consultation with the Governments of Chad and the Central African Republic, and to continue to collaborate with the African Union and regional stakeholders in support of the ongoing process of improving the security situation in Sudan, Chad and the Central African Republic. The Security Council also welcomed the signing, on 13 August 2007 in N'Djamena, of the Political Agreement for the reinforcement of the democratic process in Chad and encouraged the authorities and political stakeholders in Chad and the Central African Republic to pursue their efforts of national dialogue, with respect for the constitutional framework.

On 27 August, the Council adopted a presidential statement (S/PRST/2007/30), in which it reiterated its concern about the prevailing insecurity along the borders between the Sudan, Chad and the Central African Republic and about the threat which it posed to the civilian population and the conduct of humanitarian operations.

Asia

Iraq

On 10 August, the Council adopted resolution 1770 (2007), in which it extended the mandate of the United Nations Assistance Mission for Iraq (UNAMI) for another period of 12 months and gave it a larger role in coordinating, in close cooperation with the Government of Iraq, the many initiatives aimed at addressing the difficult challenges faced by Iraqi society, particularly in the political arena (including national reconciliation through political dialogue and constitutional reform), the socio-economic field (implementation of the International Compact with Iraq), the area of humanitarian assistance (refugees and displaced persons), the promotion and protection of human rights and the provision of juridical and legal assistance.

The Council considered that expansion of the role of UNAMI in the current climate of recurrent insecurity posed the problem of protecting United Nations personnel.

Lebanon

On 3 August, the Council adopted a presidential statement (S/PRST/2007/29), in which it condemned the acts of violence and provocation committed by the parties in violation of resolution 1701 (2006) and reaffirmed the territorial integrity, political independence, unity and sovereignty of Lebanon.

On 24 August, the Council adopted resolution 1773 (2007), in which, at the request of the Government of Lebanon, it extended the mandate of the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL) for a period of 12 months. In that resolution, the Council condemned all terrorist attacks against UNIFIL and

reaffirmed that all parties had the obligation to respect the safety of United Nations personnel.

Situation in the Middle East, including the question of Palestine

On 29 August, at an open debate on the situation on the Middle East, including the question of Palestine, the Council heard the most recent briefing of Mr. Michael Williams, Special Coordinator for the Middle East Peace Process. Members of the Council welcomed Mr. Williams' work and expressed the hope that the diplomatic initiatives launched in recent months, and particularly the in-depth dialogue between Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas and Israeli Prime Minister Ehud Olmert and the announcement that an international conference on the Middle East would be held in November 2007 at the initiative of the President of the United States of America, would lead to progress towards a definitive solution to the Israeli-Palestinian crisis. Members of the Council considered, however, that a setback on the ground at the current stage could hinder the diplomatic process. The Council also welcomed Israel's release of 250 Palestinian prisoners and the unfreezing of the Palestinian financial assets that had been frozen by Israel.

Europe

Georgia

On 8 August, under "Other matters", Mr. Pascal Gayama, Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Congo and President of the Security Council, informed members of the Council that he had met with the Permanent Representative of Georgia to the United Nations to discuss the incident caused by missiles that were reportedly fired at Georgia.

On 16 August, Mr. Hédi Annabi briefed the Council on this matter. No decision was taken.

Other matters

Ad Hoc Working Group on Conflict Prevention and Resolution in Africa

On 27 August, under "Other matters", Mr. Pascal Gayama (Congo), in his capacity as Chairman of the Ad Hoc Working Group on Conflict Prevention and Resolution in Africa, made a statement on the Group's work during the period 2006-2007.

Thematic issues

Threats to international peace and security

On 28 August, the Council held an open debate on the topic: "Maintenance of international peace and security: Role of the Security Council in conflict prevention and resolution, in particular in Africa".

The Secretary-General made a statement in which he stressed the need to move from a culture of conflict reaction to one of conflict prevention.

All the members of the Council, as well as the representatives of the President of the General Assembly, the President of the Economic and Social Council, a number of other Member States and regional organizations, made statements. They hoped that particular attention would be paid to the need to harmonize the work of the bodies involved in conflict prevention and resolution. Other speakers highlighted the role of the African subregional mechanisms in the context of the partnership between the African Union and the United Nations.

During the public debate, the Council adopted a presidential statement (S/PRST/2007/31), which summarized a series of proposals ranging from legal provisions of the Charter of the United Nations to the most recent decisions, resolutions and statements adopted by the Security Council, including resolution 1625 (2005). The Council also encouraged the Ad Hoc Working Group on Conflict Prevention and Resolution in Africa to continue its work, including within the framework of the seminar that it plans to organize on the topic of the elaboration of an effective global conflict prevention strategy for Africa.